

Appl. No. 10/632,475
Amdt. Dated March 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 16, 2004

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wu (US 6,648,682).

Applicant has incorporated dependent claims 3 and 5 into independent claim 1. By such amendments, applicant believes that amended claim 1 is now patentable over the cited prior art.

First, amended claim 1 defines an insulative housing having a pair of side walls, a pair of end walls, and a bottom wall which together define a mating space. However, Wu does not disclose the mating space as defined in the claim 1.

Second, amended claim 1 defines a plurality of compliant contacts each having a press-fit tail for being mounted to the PCB. This type of press-fit tail means that the tail is press-fitted into the PCB and does not need to be soldered. However, seeing Wu's description from col. 3, lines 35 to lines 37, Wu recites a terminal portion 141 extending downwardly from the retaining portion 142 for being soldered to the PCB. So the contact of claim 1 is substantially different from that of Wu.

Third, amended claim 1 defines that the press-fit tails of the contacts are arranged in one line. Seeing FIGS. 2-4 of Wu, it is obvious that the terminal portions 141 of the contacts 14 are arranged in two rows.

Last, Wu only disclose a post 50 generally protruding from the supporting means 48, and fails to disclose a pair of pegs integrally formed on the bottom wall of the housing as defined in claim 1.

Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Wu.

Claims 2 and 7-8 are also believed to be patentable since they depend from

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claim 1, either directly or indirectly.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 4, 6, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 6,648,682) in view of Zhang (US 6,746,281).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's opinion. Detailed explanations are given below.

Claim 4 depends indirectly from amended independent claim 1, and accordingly claim 4 includes all the limitations as defined in amended independent claim 1. Wu fails to disclose that the press-fit tail of the contact comprises a needle eye at a center thereof so as to increase flexibility of the press-fit tail as defined in claim 4 besides that Wu does not have the above-mentioned limitations in amended claim 1. Although Zhang discloses the board retaining portion 202 is configured for press-fitting in the printed circuit board and comprises a needle eye, it is clearly disclosed from FIG. 3 of Zhang that the board retaining portions 202 of the contacts is not configured in one line. Therefore, combination of Wu and Zhang fails to disclose that *the press-fit tails of the contacts are arranged in one line* as defined in claim 4. Claim 4 is patentable over Wu in view of Zhang.

Claim 6 has all the limitations of claim 1 since it depends directly from claim 1. Neither Wu nor Zhang discloses that the press-fit tails of the contacts are arranged in one line as defined in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 is believed to be patentable over the two cited references.

Regarding independent claim 9, an electrical connector assembly as defined therein comprises a printed circuit board, a Serial Advance Technology Attachment (SATA) connector mounted unto the printed circuit board, an underside of the housing defining a standoff periphery so as to have an undersurface of the housing spatially lifted from the printed circuit board, and *a pair of pegs integrally* downwardly from the undersurface of the housing around two opposite end wall.

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The SATA defines an insulative housing with *two opposite end walls and two opposite side walls commonly defining a mating space* therein with an L-shape tongue extending in said mating space. Said L-shaped tongue includes a longer section extending along a longitudinal direction of the housing and a shorter section extending along a transverse direction perpendicular to said longitudinal direction. A slot is formed in one of said pair of end walls spaced farther from the shorter section. *A cutout is formed in said standoff periphery around one of said end walls to outwardly expose a root section of the corresponding peg along the longitudinal direction while a root of the other peg is not.*

However, Wu fails to the above italic limitation as defined in claim 9.

Seeing FIG. 3 of Zhang, the housing 10 has a pair of supporting portion located in two opposite ends thereof and protruding from a bottom surface thereof for supporting the housing 10 on a surface of a printed circuit board. Each supporting portion defines a chamber and a board retention peg 18 is protruded from the chamber. *Each supporting portion forms an opening at an outer side thereof so as to outwardly expose a root section of each board retention peg 18 along a longitudinal direction of the housing 10.*

From the above description, it is clear that Zhang does not disclose that a root section of one of the pair of pegs is not exposed outwardly as defined in claim 9. Thus, combination of Wu and Zhang cannot render obvious the instant invention as defined in claim 9. Claim 9 is believed to be allowable over Wu in view of Zhang.

Claim 10 is also believed to be patentable since it depends directly from claim 9.

Neither Wu nor Zhang discloses that *the standoff periphery forms a wider U-shaped portion around one of said pair of end walls for closely protectively surrounding the corresponding one of said pair of pegs while the other peg is relatively farther away from corresponding portions of the standoff periphery* as defined in claim 11. Therefore, combination of Wu and Zhang cannot render

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obvious the instant invention as defined in claim 11, either. Claim 11 is patentable over Wu in view of Zhang.

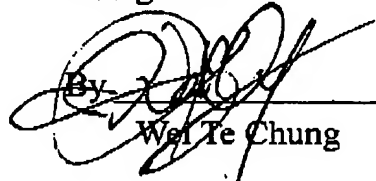
Claim 12 is also believed to be patentable since it depends directly from claim 11.

Most importantly, Zhang is NOT the qualified reference because the filing date of Zhang, i.e., 10/02/2003, is later than that of the instant application, i.e., 08/01/2003. Accordingly, Zhang should be removed from the rejection basis. Without Zhang, Wu no longer renders obvious claims 4, 6 and 9-12.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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